

*2ND LEUPHANA SUMMER SCHOOL IN DIGITAL CULTURES*

# HACKADE MIA

**28/08 -  
02/09**

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**Leuphana University  
Lüneburg, Germany**

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DCRL  
digital cultures research lab

# RTFM - THE STUDENT PROJECT

Ahoy!

Welcome to the Hackademia summer school. This is the 2nd Lüneburg Summer School for Digital Cultures – a series run by the Digital Cultures Research Lab (DCRL) at Leuphana University. This year, we (Paula Bialski and Marcel Mars, from the DCRL), united with Gabriella “Biella” Coleman from McGill University, and hatched the idea of the Hackademia. Some of you are likely wondering: how will we be spending our long summer days and nights in this quaint German town of Lüneburg? The short answer is we have planned many exciting events and have published the full program, which includes talks, panels, social time, and even scheduled down time (see p. 5 onwards). Our summer school will address 5 key themes (see p. 7 and 8) although others are also likely to come up. Most of our events, like the lectures or the technologists' panel, are self-explanatory, but there is one project that is a bit more complicated, so it will require you to carefully RTFM, that is, to Read This Friendly Manual.

Each one of you has been placed into a group which has been assigned an ethnographic-based project (see below for group composition and a description of the themes, many of which inter-articulate). Each project comes with a general set of questions and/or descriptions as well as some ethnographic points of entry for research. However, your group should not limit itself to our suggestions and we strongly encourage you to scout elsewhere for data. Your group is free to change the questions as its members see fit, as they are merely starting points. Think of what we have provided as a skeleton and your assignment is to layer on a bit of the flesh.

Logistically, the idea is for you to conduct the majority of the work during the allotted daily time of 2 hours, which we have reserved for group research at Hackademia. Prior to arrival and in order to hit the ground running as soon as you arrive, it will be necessary for you to do some research and, especially, see to the division of research labor. In the next few weeks, you should connect with your group and then conduct some preliminary research on the assigned topic, relying on the same sort of collaborative tools – wikis, mailing lists, and IRC – used by hackers. We have set up an IRC (#hackademia at irc.freenode.net, web access: <https://webchat.freenode.net/?channels=#hackademia>) and recommend a etherpad collaborative text editor at <https://pad.riseup.net> which are all ready to be used and revamped by you. Our guesstimate is prior to arrival, you will need to spend about 5 to 7 hours each to coordinate things and conduct some preliminary research. On the final day of the summer school, and during our last final academic session of the week, each group will present research results, methodological insights, and any other lessons learned.

# RATIONALE

Since our time together is limited, we wanted to keep away and steer clear from the usual style of academic pedagogy: sitting in a seminar room dissecting articles and books that we have read. That's good stuff and we have to do it, but we do it enough and thought we would proceed with a more hands-on, ethnographic-based project.

Taking a cue from the world of hackers, we decided to assign a project that allows students to work not only as a team but a virtual and in-person group. We also want you to conduct research on an area unrelated to your dissertation topic (which is why you have been assigned to a group). Given the ethnographic/empirical focus of our summer school, we want to take full advantage of the fact that hackers, while they certainly don't only live, work, and play online, nevertheless spend a lot of time tapping away at their keyboards and leave many traces of their thoughts, conversations, arguments, lore, culture, and histories online. Whether it is a pirate board, a security mailing lists, blog posts, YouTube Videos, a Reddit thread, there is an astounding—even overwhelming—amount of online information related to hackers that researchers can access, collect, and analyze.

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# SLIGHTLY MORE DETAILED LOGISTICS

Probably the most important thing to do is to connect with your group sooner rather than later so you can divvy up some tasks and also discuss the scope and ideas related to the project. You will likely use some of the tools we have suggested, but you are not expected to use all or any of them. The one tool we strongly do encourage you try is Internet Relay Chat. We already have a channel for Hackademia so please feel free join it, but also create a dedicated channel for your group project. Since hackers use IRC so often, we want people to feel comfortable being there. It is also a great medium for group work (and bonding), and the only way to experience it is, well, to experience it.

Some of the excitement you may be feeling about this project is also likely tinged/tainted with some measure of feelings of doom and gloom when you contemplate the limited time you have at Hackademia to work on it. We are aware 2 hours a day is not a whole lot of time but to be clear, we are not expecting some grand-elaborate-mind-blowing-I-can-publish-this-in-Nature-thesis-by-the-time-you-present-your-findings-on-Friday. Our expectations are more modest: perhaps your group can only offer tentative arguments or insights, which might be the basis for future research in these areas. All of this is to say we are thinking of this project very much as an experiment. It is a rather open question as to how much and what exactly can be analytically gleaned by working together for a few weeks on the specified topics. It will likely also be the case that some groups have a bit easier of a time finding, collating, and analyzing data than other groups due to the skills and knowledge your group already has and the nature of the topic. What this is most certainly not is a competition between groups. And we expect some of the core insights will be methodological, complementing the analytical arguments and insights related to hackers (And maybe the only lessons learned are methodological). We firmly believe that experiments, whether they end up working or failing, always yield interesting data. We suspect all of us will learn from this exercise, and hope you also have some fun working with your peers.

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# OTHER WEEKS EVENTS

Your week will be divided into a number of sessions:

## Lectures

The week will begin with a lecture on Sunday evening by Maxigas - media activist, radical sysadmin and PhD candidate at the Internet Interdisciplinary Institute (IN3) within the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC). Chris Kelty will visit us on Monday evening. Kelty is a professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, and is situated at the Institute for Society and Genetics and the department of Information Studies. On Tuesday morning, Adam Fish from the sociology department at Lancaster University will discuss his fieldwork and film project about London-based hacker Lauri Love. On Wednesday, our very own Biella Coleman, anthropologist and McGill University's Wolfe Chair in Scientific and Technological Literacy will give her lecture. And last but not least, Götz Bachmann, Leuphana's Professor for Digital Media will close up the week of lectures with his notes from the field.

## The Technologists' Panel

We have invited a number of technologists who will spend the week with you in your teams, and also speak out in a technologists discussion panel. During these daily discussion panels, our guests will describe their craft, the state of their craft, and how it relates to their definitions of hacking. Our technologists include Ori Dov (HERE), Kate McKinley (Mozilla), Zaki Manian (Skuchain), Claudio Guarnieri (security research/ Amnesty International), Seth Schoen (Electronic Frontier Foundation), and Addie Wagenchuck (Deep Lab Artist).

## Skill Sharing

We have scheduled plenty of free time during the week. Feel free to use this time to rest, or join forces with your fellow students, technologists, or lecturers and share your skills.



# HACKADEMIA'S THEMES

Your week's events, in particular the Technologist's Panel as well as the lectures, will address the following themes:

## I. Property Regimes (GNU/GPL, piracy, etc.)

The issue of private property – which goods do we have the right to call our own to the exclusion of others: our clothes, the flat in which we live, means of production, profit from the production process, the beach upon which we wish to enjoy ourselves alone or to utilize by renting it out, unused land in our neighborhood – is not merely a question of the optimal economic allocation of goods, but also a question of social rights and emancipatory opportunities that are required in order to secure the continuous consent of society's members to its organizational arrangements. The promised technological innovation that would bring a new turn of the complexity in the social allocation of goods – that it will provide access to knowledge for all, help in bringing inclusion and participation in decision-making, remove monopolization and centralization – instead resulted in ever-going (attempts of) simplification, reduction and enclosure of everything (if once complex and social) into private property. In the world of free software, it came through tivoization (enclosing free software by encrypted hardware restrictions) and appropriation by internet giants like Google, Amazon.com or Facebook, who on top of free software built "walled gardens" or "software-as-a-service" hidden behind their servers, and finally by finding the investment strategies of venture capital to close the rapture in the enclosures landscape left after the success of commons-based peer production. Airbnb helping gentrification, appropriation and a new wave of speculative privatization in housing is only one of the many possible aftermaths of the same processes which already happened in the world of (free) software.

## 2. Control & Surveillance

Improved recording techniques facilitate new levels of surveillance, tracking, and control. Who is engineering these new surveillance techniques? Moreover, who is engineering ways of obfuscating this increased surveillance? As surveillance power is also at the hands of those who build the tools to spy or encrypt communication, this panel will discuss the actors involved in our increased surveillance apparatus. From infosec, the cypherpunks, TOR, and everyone in between, this panel will attempt to unravel the politics, ethics, and cultures they operate under.

## 3. Centralization of Power

The end-to-end design principle of the most successful network protocol today, TCP/IP, promised us reliable (packet) distribution to every end (node) of a network while the rest, a "dummy" network of collaborative hubs and routers, would non-discriminatively support the distribution even if some parts of a network go down. In the early days of internet, that principle brought us a landscape of autonomous, federated and distributed web sites (HTTP/HTML/JS), email (SMTP/IMAP/POP3), newsgroups (NNTP), chat rooms (IRC). But what is the state of distributed infrastructure today?

## 4. Equality vs. Elitism in Hacking

Hacking in its distinct guises is built fundamentally not only expertise but a deep, often technically-based expertise. Many hackers are indeed hackers because they have spent much of their whole adult life, including a chunk of childhood, acquiring the skills to hack. This fact alone means that most domains of hacking cannot be by definition open and accessible to all. Hackers also embrace some version of meritocracy or do-ocracy claiming that merit, accolades, and recognition are doled out based on accomplishments alone. Increasingly and in spite of this dogged commitment to meritocracy, hackers of all kinds have come to recognize there are serious barriers and biases at work in the hacker world that prevent those with similar skills from contributing and thriving in this domain. As a result, all sorts of formal and more informal interventions and initiatives have cropped up that are addressing the entrenched problems with diversity among hackers. Given these realities and trends, numerous questions follow: Is meritocracy/do-ocracy a false ideology that has no anchor in reality? Should it be demolished? Is expertise fundamentally anti-democratic or can it be configured in ways that make it somewhat democratic? Is the hacker scene even worse than the technological corporate/academic sector or has it been more accommodating to finding solutions to the problem of diversity? How do we reassess the role of accommodation and diversity when we take into account the fact that many hackers are accommodating with people with disabilities and/or transgender hackers?

## 5. Logics of Disruption: Silicon-Valley-Disruption versus Fuck-Shit-Up Disruption

How exactly do hackers disrupt? Among Silicon Valley technologists, entrepreneurs, hackers, and so-called “thought leaders,” disruption is tossed about to describe the goal of new ventures and technologies. To disrupt is to innovate and engender new economic and social possibilities in ways that demolish and destroy so-called archaic business practices of the past. In the process, no care is given to the actual social disruption—lost jobs, growing economic inequities, unfavorable cities, unregulated labor markets—that may result from such innovation. At the same time that capitalist-oriented/loving hackers and their allies have wholly colonized this buzzword, other hackers have disrupted the disruptors by hacking, leaking, and engaging in other acts of minor and major sabotage. Whether acting under the popular group alias of Anonymous, or acting alone or in a small team with pseudonyms, the last five years have been characterized by a dramatic surge in risky direct action deeds of sabotage and hacking. What are the relationships, if any, between these two forms of disruption? Do they represent wholly distinct hacker lineages? Or do these hackers share sensibilities and mindsets, although they are oriented toward radically distinct ends? Is the hacktivist-style disruption a threat for the capitalist disruptor? What are the biggest threats the hacktivist disruptors face for their on-going existence?

# GROUP PROJECTS

Your theme as well as group will be assigned to you prior to your arrival. Here is our list of themes, just so you know what we're working with:

1. Wikileaks Over Time
2. Diversity in Hacking
3. The Star Developer
4. The Rise and fall of Ethereum/The Dao
5. Science Hub
6. The App Launch



# GROUP I: Wikileaks Over Time

Prior to launching in 2006, Wikileaks sent an email to various organizations to inform them of their master plan. Partly excerpted here, it is clearly premised on techno-determinist reasoning: "WikiLeaks.org has developed and integrated technology to foment untracable[sic], unstoppable mass document leaking and discussion... We aim for maximum political impact; this means our technology is fast and usable by non-technical people. We have received over a million documents of varying quality. .. We believe that the increasing familiarity with wikipedia.org provides a comfortable transition to those who wish to leak documents and comment on leaked documents."

Wikileaks' plan failed to materialize as envisioned, and in this period journalists were far more likely to visit Wikipedia rather than Wikileaks, even if indeed the whistle-blowing organization was already hosting newsworthy leaks. By 2010, Wikileaks substantially overhauled its game plan. Even if the original idea behind Wikileaks had been to circumvent the establishment and existing journalistic/media channels, eventually they partnered with them to release the diplomatic cables, and even deployed some of their methods in an attempt to lure eyeballs in a contemporary media environment characterized by extreme competition and fragmentation. Julian Assange stepped out of the shadows and into the limelight; the organization started to host press conferences and curated content as it did with the release of the video Collateral Murder. Editorial procedures and policies were changed. By 2011, it became clearer that while Wikileaks was a disruptive force, its relationship with the establishment press, even though still embattled and tense, was resolutely symbiotic.

In this project, turn to the commentary about Wikileaks by academics and journalists and those published by Wikileaks/Assange over the last six years to describe major turning points in its short history. Treating Wikileaks through the lens of a social experiment, how would you characterize its greatest successes and failures? Is it possible, more specifically, to trace the changes in Julian Assange's thinking concerning the practice and power of leaking and technology? Are the major profiles written about Assange, linked to below, fair assessments based on your research?

There is a lot of material out there, but here are some places to start looking at these issues:

<https://cryptome.org/0002/ja-conspiracies.pdf>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20080419013425/http://www.wikileaks.org/wiki/Wikileaks:Submissions>

[https://web.archive.org/web/20080216000537/http://www.wikileaks.org/wiki/Wikileaks:About#What\\_is\\_WikiLeaks.3F\\_How\\_does\\_WikiLeaks\\_operate.3F](https://web.archive.org/web/20080216000537/http://www.wikileaks.org/wiki/Wikileaks:About#What_is_WikiLeaks.3F_How_does_WikiLeaks_operate.3F)

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/understanding-conspiracy-\\_b\\_793463](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/understanding-conspiracy-_b_793463)

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2010/06/07/no-secrets#ixzz0pi3DCkIg>

<http://cjms.fims.uwo.ca/issues/special/Lynch.pdf>

<http://www.lrb.co.uk/v36/n05/andrew-ohagan/ghosting>

<https://wikileaks.org/Transcript-Meeting-Assange-Schmidt.html>

<http://www.orbooks.com/catalog/when-google-met-wikileaks/>

[utm\\_source=newsweek&utm\\_medium=serial&utm\\_campaign=google\\_met\\_wikileaks](http://www.orkut.com/profile/assange)

<https://twitter.com/wikileaks>

# GROUP 2: Diversity in Hacking

Whether you are scanning and assessing academic, industry or more informal settings, it's painfully undeniable: computer science is suffering from a serious lack of diversity. In this project, drawing extensively on 1) gender and diversity specific initiatives/talks and discussion from the hacker world and 2) studies about computer science and diversity, what would you say are the specific issues plaguing these communities? What are dynamics that seem to cross across domains? In what ways have hackers, through multiple initiatives—stretching from well-articulated codes of conduct to increasing female participation—risen to the challenge to address the problem? Where do some of the most persistent problems still lie? As we asked below in one of our core themes of the week: “Is the hacker scene even worse than the technological corporate/academic sector or has it been more accommodating to finding solutions to the problem of diversity? How do we reassess the role of accommodation and diversity when we take into account the fact that many hackers are accommodating with people with disabilities and/or transgender hackers?

There is a lot of material out there, but here are some places to start looking at these issues:

<http://peerproduction.net/issues/issue-5-shared-machine-shops/peer-reviewed-articles/feminist-hackerspaces-the-synthesis-of-feminist-and-hacker-cultures/>  
<http://peerproduction.net/issues/issue-5-shared-machine-shops/peer-reviewed-articles/feminist-hackerspaces-the-synthesis-of-feminist-and-hacker-cultures/>  
<http://culturedigitally.org/2012/06/engendering-change-gender-advocacy-in-open-source/>  
<http://www.blackgirlscode.com/> < <http://www.blackgirlscode.com/>  
<https://techcrunch.com/2014/02/21/women-outnumber-men-for-the-first-time-in-berkeleys-intro-to-computer-science-course/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCSpyuJDSPs>  
<http://blog.csta.acm.org/2014/11/05/moving-students-toward-a-growth-mindset-in-computer-science/>  
<https://hypatia.ca/2016/06/21/no-more-rock-stars/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCCqjvbuMWw>  
<https://wiki.python.org/moin/DiversityInPython>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XgILgSg3pmo>  
<https://twitter.com/JulesiePham/status/697618377385209856>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hIJdFxYIEKE>  
<https://www.ncwit.org/resources/type/statistics-reports>  
<https://zerotolerance.guru/>  
<https://zerotolerance.guru>  
[https://gendersec.tacticaltech.org/wiki/index.php/Complete\\_manual](https://gendersec.tacticaltech.org/wiki/index.php/Complete_manual)  
<http://www.genderchangers.org/>  
<https://tacticaltech.org/gender-tech-institute>  
<https://transhackfeminist.noblogs.org/>  
<http://www.giswatch.org/en/internet-rights/feminist-autonomous-infrastructures>



# GROUP 3: The Star Developer

Talent agents, management, groupies and backstage riders. Is the programmer, hacker, and developer the new rock star? With the music industry's implosion since the rise of file sharing, artist management has been turning to represent "Star Developers" or "Rockstar Programmers": sought-after talented programmers, developers, hackers and coders with ample talent and experience who offer that "something" companies are willing to bid for. What mechanisms, infrastructures, markets, or social forces enforce this narrative of the Star Developer? Where is the border between the Star Developer and the run-of-the-mill developer? Who draws these borders? Moreover, what narratives drive these Star Developers, and is there a formula to becoming one? This project can use the example of the Star Developer to look at issues of hierarchy among the ever-shifting programmer profession, and uncover the techniques, language, and know-how that helps certain developers gain cultural capital, leaving others behind. Moreover, programming, developing, coding or hacking has its work nobody is willing to do. Who is the opposite of the Star Developer? Is their professional mobility at all possible?

There is a lot of material out there, but here are some places to start looking at these issues:

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/11/24/programmers-price>

<http://www.10xmanagement.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PKjtnhdcAu0>

<http://worrydream.com/>

<http://maxnanis.com/>

<http://shit-recruiters-say.tumblr.com/>



# GROUP 4: The Rise and fall of Ethereum/The Dao

In the 1985 paper "Security without Identification: Transaction Systems to Make Big Brother Obsolete", David Chaum captures and describes the phenomenon many hackers would resonate with "Computerization is robbing individuals of the ability to monitor and control the ways information about them is used." He proposes, among other things, the creation of digital anonymous cash as a way to reach autonomy from any power by the established institutions. Or, as cypherpunk movement would imagine: no recognition of law except the one that can be described by math and enforced by code.

There were a number of "running code" proposals for digital currency before 2009, but none that was able to fully (cryptographically) distribute the public ledger. Bitcoin was the first one. It took the imagination of digital autonomy advocates by storm. Bitcoin's elegant technical implementation (both as code to read and software easy to use) allowed many people to finally "grok" the concept of currency. Shortly after, the concept of blockchain was abstracted from bitcoin and introduced as the way to distribute any task hitherto controlled by institutional bureaucracy.

The blockchain (concept) became the golden hammer (pun intended) searching for millions of nails to be pounded. While Bitcoin was becoming the speculative financial bombshell, an unexchangeable currency of the new Silk Road, or yet another disturbing event for the global economic elites in post-2008 crisis, in Bitcoin's neighboring branches we witnessed the development of different technologies for (easy) creation of new blockchains, promising a wide use and autonomy.

In a competitive world of technologies which generalized and promised the effortless creation of new blockchain solutions, Ethereum stood out. It got praised not only by social entrepreneurs (left and right) but also by venture capital. Shortly after, it also proved that computer security is hard, not to mention how hard (if not impossible) it is to introduce a brand new technology as a solution for socio-political problems. What kind of governance introduces, implements and accepts blockchain (or smart contracts)? Which actors, practices and subjectivities support and introduce blockchain? What kinds of failures does blockchain try to fix?

There is a lot of material out there, but here are some places to start looking at these issues:

[http://www.chaum.com/publications/Security\\_Wthout\\_Identification.html](http://www.chaum.com/publications/Security_Wthout_Identification.html)

<http://randomwalker.info/publications/crypto-dream-part1.pdf>

<http://www.activism.net/cypherpunk/manifesto.html>

<https://bitcoin.org>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silk\\_Road\\_\(marketplace\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silk_Road_(marketplace))

<https://wiki.p2pfoundation.net/Faircoin>

<http://nettime.org/Lists-Archives/nettime-l-1606/msg00050.html>

<http://www.wired.com/2016/06/biggest-crowdfunding-project-ever-dao-mess/>

# GROUP 5: Science Hub

In June of 2015, Elsevier won an injunction against Library Genesis, the largest illegal repository of electronic books, journals and articles on the web, for accessing academic journals on Sci-hub.org. A voluntary and non-commercial project by anonymous scientists from mostly Eastern Europe, Sci-hub.org provided access to over a million academic articles either stored in its database or accessed by bypassing the paywalls of academic publishers. The only person explicitly named in Elsevier's lawsuit, Sci-hub's founder Alexandra Elbakyan, minced no words: "When I was working on my research project, I found out that all research papers I needed for work were paywalled. I was a student in Kazakhstan at the time and our university was not subscribed to anything." Being a computer scientist, she found the tools and services on the internet that allowed her to bypass the paywalls. First, she would make articles available on internet forums where people would file requests for the articles they needed, but then eventually she automated the process and made the access available to everyone on the open web. "Thanks to Elsevier's lawsuit, I got past the point of no return. At this time I either have to prove we have the full right to do this or risk being executed like other 'pirates' [...] If Elsevier manages to shut down our projects or force them into the darknet, that will demonstrate an important idea: that the public does not have the right to knowledge. [...] Everyone should have access to knowledge regardless of their income or affiliation. And that's absolutely legal. Also the idea that knowledge can be a private property of some commercial company sounds absolutely weird to me." What are the foundational values for the knowledge economy/society? How does current Academia and scientific publishing reflect on those values and who are the actors involved? When does civil disobedience become inevitable?

There is a lot of material out there, but here are some places to start looking at these issues:

<http://sci-hub.cc/>  
[https://twitter.com/Sci\\_Hub](https://twitter.com/Sci_Hub)  
<https://www.facebook.com/sci.hub.org>  
[https://vk.com/sci\\_hub](https://vk.com/sci_hub)  
[https://archive.org/stream/GuerillaOpenAccessManifesto/Goamjuly2008\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/GuerillaOpenAccessManifesto/Goamjuly2008_djvu.txt)  
<https://torrentfreak.com/sci-hub-tears-down-academias-illegal-copyright-paywalls-150627/>  
<http://custodians.online/>  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/13/opinion/sunday/should-all-research-papers-be-free.html>  
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/this-student-put-50-million-stolen-research-articles-online-and-theyre-free/2016/03/30/7714ffb4-eaf7-11e5-b0fd-073d5930a7b7\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/this-student-put-50-million-stolen-research-articles-online-and-theyre-free/2016/03/30/7714ffb4-eaf7-11e5-b0fd-073d5930a7b7_story.html)  
<http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2016/04/whos-downloading-pirated-papers-everyone>  
<http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2016/04/alexandra-elbakyan-founded-sci-hub-thwart-journal-paywalls>

# GROUP 6: The App Launch

When any given product development team works on a new app, the process of developing their product in anticipation of a launch is a performance, with its own set of practices and rituals. Through an often gamified work process, a product team incorporates sport-like metaphors of aggression, hunger, drive and competition, and narratives of teamwork and save-the-world glory. What does this performance really look like? And where did it originate? How is the development process and then the demonstration (demo) experienced by participants? Revealing the social and economic mechanisms inherent in these practices might help uncover the type of knowledge production that they make possible, the power structures that they enforce, the people they include and the sensibilities that they exclude.

There is a lot of material out there, but here are some places to start looking at these issues:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJDv-zdhzMY>  
<http://sss.sagepub.com/content/39/3/449.short>  
<http://stx.sagepub.com/content/31/4/343.short>  
<https://github.com/adamwulf/app-launch-guide>  
<https://www.scrumalliance.org/why-scrum>  
<https://www.reddit.com/r/permissioncontrol/>  
<https://www.reddit.com/r/productpeople/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ml07aeZqeco>

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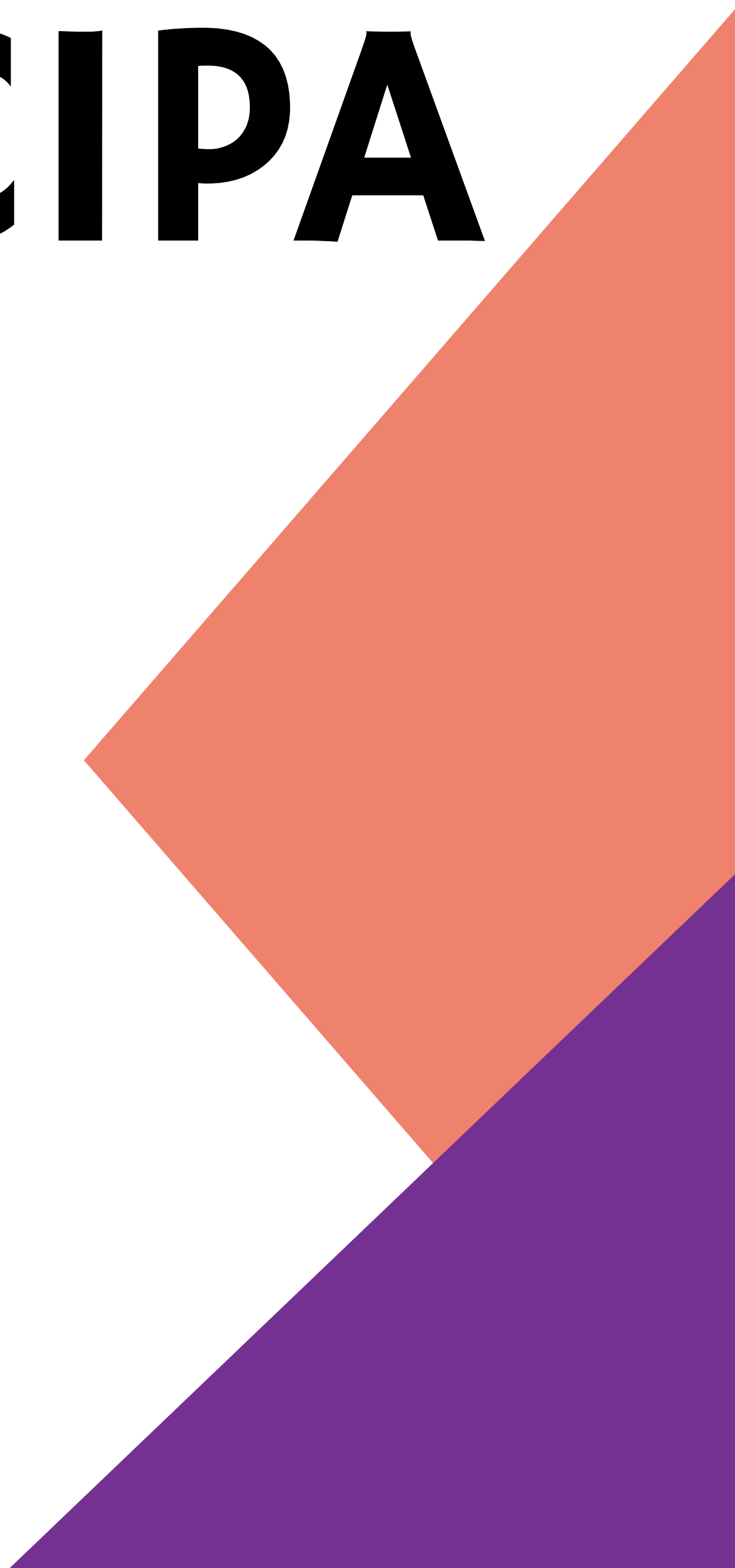
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## **LEONIE TANCZER**

### **QUEENS UNIVERSITY BELFAST**

I am PhD Student at the School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy at Queen's University Belfast (UK) and former Fellow at the Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society in Berlin. I studied Political Science at the University Vienna and Political Psychology at Queen's University Belfast. I am currently working on an interdisciplinary PhD project with supervision from both Social Sciences and Engineering. My thesis merges Critical Security Studies theory with the digital realm. I am examining the ongoing (in)securitisation of hacking and hacktivism, focussing specifically on the governmental (European Union), corporate, as well as the hacker/hacktivist level.



WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING IN AUGUST IF NOT AT THIS SUMMER SCHOOL? AS BORING AS IT SOUNDS, BUT I WOULD MOST LIKELY BE SPENDING MY DAYS IN THE "PHD DUNGEON" READING, RESEARCHING, AND WRITING FOR MY PHD (AS WELL AS PROBABLY SELF-PITYING MYSELF FOR NOT HAVING BEEN ACCEPTED TO HACKADEMIA).

## **SARAH MYERS WEST**

### **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

Sarah Myers West is a doctoral student and Wallis Annenberg Graduate Research Fellow at the Annenberg School for Communication. Her research centers on the role of technology companies in governing speech and new formations of networked "public" spaces. In addition, she studies international policymaking and activism around privacy, security, and freedom of expression. She is an affiliate researcher at the Berkman Center for Internet and Society, a Cybersecurity Fellow at the New America Foundation, the managing editor for Global Voices Advocacy's Netizen Report, and worked as a Google Policy Fellow for the Electronic Frontier Foundation in the summer of 2015.



IF NOT AT HACKADEMIA? I'M PLAYING HOOKY FROM VIGOROUSLY STUDYING FOR QUALS TO ATTEND HACKADEMIA, SO THAT'S WHAT I'D PROBABLY BE DOING THIS AUGUST (ALONG WITH MY SIDEKICK LEO, PICTURED) IF NOT AT THIS SUMMER SCHOOL.



## **ALIX JOHNSON**

### **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ**

Alix Johnson is a PhD candidate in Anthropology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Her research examines ideas of marginality and connectivity in Iceland, through a social and material history of IT. Her dissertation traces links between technology, identity, sovereignty and sense of place, drawing on a year of ethnographic research (mostly spent chatting with old men over cakes). Alix is also the graduate research assistant at the Center for Emerging Worlds.

IF NOT AT THE HACKADEMIA SUMMER SCHOOL, I'D BE SURFING, CLIMBING, AND (FRETTERING OVER) WRITING.



## **RANDI HEINRICHS**

### **LEUPHANA UNIVERSITY LUNEBURG**

Randi Heinrichs is currently working on her dissertation in the Cultural Sciences at Leuphana University, about the conception of algorithmic anonymity. Her research examines the negotiations of anonymity at the intersections of technology, infrastructures, practices and regulations. To explore the socio-technical question of how anonymity is imagined and produced in Digital Cultures, Randi is at the beginning of conducting ethnographic research with algorithmic actors who seems to know what is the 'unknown'. She is affiliated at the Digital Cultures Research Lab.



IF NOT ATTENDING THE HACKADEMIA SUMMER SCHOOL, I'D BE IN MY FAMILY'S GARDEN CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAYS OF MY MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER, EXPLAINING TO THEM THAT 'ONLY' EATING TWO PIECES OF CAKE DOESN'T MEAN THAT I DON'T ENJOY IT...



## **JULIA VELKOVA**

### **SÖDERTÖRN UNIVERSITY**

Educated as a telecom engineer and philosopher of eastern cultures, I encountered the world of hackers in the mid 1990s while geeking with C and php scripting, and spending long hours on irc-channels in the early days of the internet. After some years among the Debian community in Bulgaria, I became more interested in studying the practices of hacking and their cultural transformations rather than being involved in them. This is what I do in my dissertation project now where I study how hacker's ideas about public infrastructures and culture are modulated in the field of digital visual media production.



IF NOT AT THE SUMMER SCHOOL, I WOULD BE GIVING AN MA COURSE ON DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGIES: ARCHIVES AND ALGORITHMS AT MY DEPARTMENT...THE SWEDISH ACADEMIC YEAR STARTS REALLY EARLY!

## **PHILIP DI SALVO**

### **UNIVERSITÀ DELLA SVIZZERA ITALIANA**

Philip is a researcher and a journalist. He's both Italian and Swiss. Currently, he's doing a PhD in journalism studying digital whistleblowing platforms using GlobaLeaks and SecureDrop. He's the Italian editor of The European Journalism Observatory. As a freelance journalists, he writes on a regular basis for the Italian Wired and occasionally for Vice/Motherboard and other outlets. Beside the work, he runs a small record label with some friends.



IF NOT AT THIS SUMMER SCHOOL, I'D PROBABLY (NOT) BE LISTENING TO @ACADEMICSSAY'S MOTTO "YOU SHOULD BE WRITING".



## MARCIN ZAROD

### UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW

Physicist by training, sociologist by choice, STS scholar by heart. Currently I'm writing up results of ethnography I had done in some hackerspaces around Poland. Ethnography started as "Hackerspace as a laboratory in sense of STS" but outgrown initial premise. I more attached to material dimension and epistemology of hacking / fab-labbing / making, rather than direct political consequences.

IF I DIDN'T TAKE PART IN HACKADEMIA, I WOULD GO TO EASST OR WRITE OR BOTH. I'M ALSO BIT ANXIOUS ABOUT RETURNING TO THE FIELD TO CHECK IF MY PHD CONCEPT WASN'T CRACKED.



## AMELIA HASSOUN

### UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

I'm a British Palestinian digital anthropologist who grew up in the USA. I'm currently doing a PhD at the University of Minnesota analyzing the production of Singapore as a "smart city," focusing primarily on technologists creatively interacting with and reworking the government-initiated civic technologies that permeate and structure the Singaporean city-space. Previously I worked as a UX/UI designer in London. My Master's fieldwork at UCL ethnographically examined Open Source software development in England's National Health Service, asking how values become encoded in software through interactive processes between developers and medical professionals.



IF I WEREN'T AT THE SUMMER SCHOOL...I'D PROBABLY BE FRANTICALLY TRYING TO MAKE SENSE OF MY FIELD NOTES FROM SUMMER RESEARCH!



**MARIA ERIKSSON**  
**UMEA UNIVERSITY**

I'm a social anthropologist turned media scholar who studies digital architectures and systems of knowledge production around streamed music files. My research involves auto-ethnographic experiments (f.ex. the establishment of a record label for research purposes), collaborations with programmers at HUMlab (a digital humanities hub), and the study of codes, platforms, algorithms, 'big data' collections and metadata arrangements that underlie circulatory systems for digital music.

IF I WASN'T ATTENDING THE HACKADEMIA SUMMER SCHOOL, I'D MOST LIKELY BE COVERED IN SOIL WHILE TENDING THE HERBS, BEANS, CARROTS, CABBAGES AND PUMPKINS IN MY GARDEN(S).



**PABLO VELASCO**  
**UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK**

Pablo R. Velasco is a PhD candidate at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies (CIM), University of Warwick. His research explores the rationale behind cryptocurrencies' design, and the interwoven relations between State, borders, politics and cryptocurrencies' distribution of power. He recently participated in Transmediale 2016: Conversation Piece (Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin) and collaborated in APRJA: Excessive Research journal (Digital Aesthetics Research Centre, Aarhus University), and the Moneylab Reader (Institute of Network Cultures, Amsterdam). He is particularly interested in particular Free/Libre and Open Source Software and cultures, and is a Linux enthusiast.



WHAT WOULD I BE DOING IN AUGUST IF NOT AT THIS SUMMER SCHOOL? I WOULD BE DIVERTING OF MY DISSERTATION WRITING TOWARDS ATTEMPTS AT CODE LEARNING (INSTRUMENTAL PROCRASTINATION).



**RENEE RIDGWAY**

**LEUPHANA UNIVERSITY LUNEBURG / COPENHAGEN BUSINESS SCHOOL**

My PhD research investigates the conceptual as well as technological implications of using 'search' as a researcher, ranging from the 'personalisation' of mainstream search engines to developing alternative methods for searching the internet. As a performative form of critique, my overarching method is that of a 'critical ethnography of the self', where I investigate how the notion of the self is produced through the action of 'search'. Ultimately I am to deliver a conceptual framework of methods as a form of critique in response to the hegemony of Google's personalisation. The research will show if novel, alternative search methods deliver valued and divergent results compared to that of Google, along with how these criteria of value are defined and executed.



AS MUCH AS I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO HACKADEMIA, IF I WERE NOT ATTENDING I WOULD BE (RE)WRITING THE CHAPTERS OF MY PHD WHICH IS WHAT I SEEM TO BE DOING THE PAST YEAR ALONG WITH THE SEARCH OF A BETTER RESEARCH QUESTION.

**STEPHAN BAACK**

**UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN**

I'm a PhD student at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands and currently a research fellow at the Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society in Berlin. I studied Media Culture at the University of Bremen and wrote my thesis about the German open data movement. My research is about the interconnections between civic hackers and data journalists and the related effects of 'datafication', the ongoing and increasingly ubiquitous quantification and categorization of culture and society.



IF I WOULD NOT GO TO THIS SUMMER SCHOOL, I WOULD BE IN INDONESIA TO VISIT MY WIFE'S FAMILY...AND CONTINUE WORKING ON PHD WHILE I'M THERE OF COURSE :-)



**CHRISTOPHER WILSON**  
**UNIVERISTY OF OSLO**

I'm 40 year old American based in Oslo. After several years in the UN and starting the engine room (an applied research NGO at the intersection of tech and activism), I've begun a phd program to look more closely at the influence of digitally mediated communication on political processes. This research will explore how policy-makers in 3 countries experience the influence of digitally mediated interaction with citizens on transparency policy (spec. open government, freedom of information and public service complaint policy). I'll be beginning my research and finalizing methods at the time of the summer school.



WERE I NOT AT THE SUMMER SCHOOL, I WOULD SPEND AUGUST IN A HAMMOCK WITH DEADWOOD BOOKS, WATCHING THE NORWEGIAN SUMMER SLOWLY AND INEVITABLY VANISH.

**DANIELA PINHEIRO**  
**UNIVERSIDADE ESTADUAL DE CAMPINAS**

I'm a doctorate student who loves Netflix and brigadeiro - the best sweet in the world that is not well known for mysterious reasons! My research, which is still in the early stages, seeks to think digital piracy as a form of resistance to the restrictive and private model of knowledge appropriation in a specific context and to understand the interface between groups of digital pirates and politics/policy from the perspective of the Social Studies of Science and Technology and from an epistemology of the South.



IF I WAS NOT AT THE SUMMER SCHOOL, I WOULD BE AT MY UNIVERSITY HOPING FOR SOME COLD WEATHER IN BRAZILIAN WINTER.



**ALEXANDER CYBULSKI**  
**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

I am a Canadian doctoral student studying issues of information security and privacy at the University of Toronto's iSchool. I've been interested in systems of authority and control in new media since I was a teen, cracking shareware in my parent's basement during the 1990s. Since then I wrote an MA thesis which analyzed the surveillance mechanisms used by the Xbox 360 and my dissertation focuses on hackers who tamper with videogames.



IF I WASN'T AT HACKADEMIA I'D PROBABLY BE CELEBRATING HAVING WRITTEN MY COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS, DRUNK ON MARXIST THEORIES OF LABOR.

**VITTORIO MILONE**  
**UNIVERSITY OF NAPLES**

My research project focuses on makers and DIYBio communities, especially as doing frugal digital fabrication and bio(techno)logy. I am particularly interested in their potential for a so-called sociopolitical and economic "bottom-up empowerment": for example, the creation of open source low cost platforms and tools for independent research and artistic/political action. Furthermore, I try to investigate - also by means of an "hands-on" approach- the relatively frequent coexistence of more business-oriented initiatives and motivations with more community-driven and politically engaged actions and practices.



IF I WOULD NOT GO TO THIS SUMMER SCHOOL, I WOULD BE IN INDONESIA TO VISIT MY WIFE'S FAMILY...AND CONTINUE WORKING ON PHD WHILE I'M THERE OF COURSE :-)



**ASHLEY GORHAM**

**UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**

My dissertation, "Democracy in the Age of Information: The Audacity of Anonymous," investigates the historic temptation to save democracy by taming it, locating this temptation on both sides of the contemporary debate over the "revolutionary" potential of information. My research has largely been confined to the field of political science. As I move into the heart of my dissertation, I have begun to study the culture and practices of Anonymous, WikiLeaks, and the Electronic Disturbance Theater. I intend to argue that each group represents a different model of political action, centered on the democratic, epistemic, and the aesthetic respectively.



IF NOT AT THE SUMMER SCHOOL, I WOULD BE WORKING ON MY DISSERTATION AT HOME IN PHILADELPHIA AND ATTENDING THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL MEETING.

**JÉRÉMY GROSMA**

**UNIVERSITÉ DE NAMUR**

Jérémy is currently undertaking a Doctorate in Philosophy at the Centre de Recherche Information, Droit et Société (CIRDS) at the Université de Namur (uNamur). At the crossroads of philosophy, history and sociology, his research addresses three main questions: 1) How did the algorithm emerged as an object of knowledge?; 2) How do computer scientists relate to their algorithms? 3) How do machine-learning algorithms affect existing predictive practices?"



IF I WERE NOT ACCEPTED AT THE WINTER-SCHOOL, I PROBABLY WOULD HAVE GONE TO 4S - DEFINITELY LESS FOR THE SCIENTIFIC CONTEXT THAN FOR PARTYING ON THE BEACHES WITH FRIENDS COLLEAGUES I ALREADY KNOW.



## **FELIX GERLOFF**

### **HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY**

Felix Gerloff is junior researcher at the Institute of Experimental Design and Media Cultures within the research project Machine Love? Creativity Cultures in Underground Electronic Music and Software Engineering and PhD candidate at the Humboldt-University Berlin. With roots in history and theory of culture, his PhD project focuses on the interrelation of coding practices, material infrastructures of work and economical modes of production to understand the relation between economy and code. His interests include sound studies, sonic modes of thinking and reasoning, games and ludic practices, and the history of grammatextuality and typography.



IN AUGUST I OFTEN SPEND TIME WITH MY PARTNER AND FRIENDS IN A SUMMER COTTAGE IN FINLAND - ENJOYING THE BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE, SWIMMING IN THE LAKE AND RELAXING IN THE SAUNA.

## **CHRISTINA HARALANOVA**

### **UNIVERSITY OF CONCORDIA**

I am a PhD Candidate in Communication Studies at the University of Concordia, under the supervision of Prof. Kim Sawchuk. Last year of dissertation writing on the topic: Feminist Perspectives of Hacking: Spaces, Boundaries, Politics. My research interest stands in the intersection between (free) technology politics, internet freedom, and feminist critiques of technology. I am myself an intersection between a feminist, a hacker, a bit of programmer, a part-time mom, a free software activist and a trainer in information security. My research background is complemented to a personal participation in hacker and solidarity movements around the world. As a co-founder of Femhack – a feminist hackerspace in Montreal - I've been developing a feminist pedagogy around hacker practice.



WHAT WOULD I BE DOING IN AUGUST IF NOT THE SUMMER SCHOOL? I GUESS I'D BE WORKING ON FINALIZING MY THESIS, OR A BIKE TRIP IF THE WEATHER PERMITS IT. :)

## CAITIE LUSTIG

### UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

I am a PhD Candidate in the Informatics department of the University of California, Irvine. My research interests are at the intersection of critical algorithm studies, STS, and CSCW. My dissertation examines how values are negotiated through technical decisions and the governance of code in the open source software model. My case study is of Bitcoin, a cryptocurrency and payment platform designed for enhanced privacy and decentralization. This study will use participant observation of developers and “miners” (people who run the decentralized network) in the Bitcoin ecosystem to examine the practices, imaginaries, and values of actors in this emerging infrastructure.



IF I WAS NOT AT THIS SUMMER SCHOOL, I WOULD LIKELY BE BACK IN IRVINE, CA, USA WORKING ON MY DISSERTATION, DOING MY PAID JOB AS A WRITING CONSULTANT FOR OTHER GRADUATE STUDENTS, AND GIVING MY CATS COPIOUS AMOUNTS OF ATTENTION.

## DILLON MAHMOUDI

### PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

I'm an Iranian-American computer scientist turned economic geographer with a passion for social justice and heterodox politics. I study the ways that data, software, and software production shape, and are shaped by, our political economic system with a particular interest in emancipatory and revolutionary potentials. My current research focuses on segmentation and feminization of software work and the connection between how different software affords different organizational structures and their socioeconomic outcomes. In my spare time, I enjoy running, cycling and otherwise making things like beer, food, furniture and code.



IF NOT AT THE SUMMER SCHOOL, I'D BE WRITING AT VARIOUS COFFEE SHOPS IN PORTLAND WHILE TAKING BREAKS TO GO TO THE OREGON COAST AND ENJOY THE BEER GARDENS OF THE CITY.



## OFFRAY VLADIMIR LUNA CÁRDENAS UNIVERSITY OF CALDAS (COLOMBIA)

I'm a learner, teacher, consultant, founding member of a local hackerspace in Bogotá and free software/open knowledge (h)ac(k)tivists, with undergrad studies on informatics - mathematics, masters on education and making my PhD on Design. My research is about how can we change the digital artifacts that change us and to approach it I have bootstrapped a reciprocal modification dynamic between a digital artifact (grafoscopio) and part of our local hackerspace community (HackBo) mainly using a week long hackathon/workshop (the data week) on moldable tools for data visualization and data activism.



BESIDES OF WRITING/WORKING ON MY PHD THESIS, I WOULD TRY TO TAKE SOME TIME TO READ COMICS AND DO RPG COLLABORATIVE STORYTELLING WITH FRIENDS AND JUST ENJOY TIME WITH THE FAMILY.

## NATHALIE MARÉCHAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Nathalie is a PhD candidate in Communication at USC's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, and holds a BA in International Studies and MA in International Communication, both from American University. She has published articles about human rights advocacy in the digital age, surveillance of welfare recipients in the United States, and media coverage of WikiLeaks. She is currently writing her dissertation, "Defying Censorship, Evading Surveillance: The Political Economy of Circumvention Technology," and serving as Senior Fellow in Information Controls with Ranking Digital Rights.



IF I WEREN'T AT HACKADEMIA, I WOULD BE IN THE SWELTERING DC HEAT RESEARCHING THE IMPACT OF ICT COMPANIES ON USERS' PRIVACY AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION.



## **SEBASTIAN KUBITSCHKO**

### **UNIVERSITY OF BREMEN**

As a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Bremen's Centre for Media, Communication and Information Research the main focus of my research is on hacker cultures, politics and democratic constellations. I am interested in the way hackers gain legitimacy and how they politicize contemporary media technologies and infrastructures. More concretely, based on qualitative methods my PhD thesis investigated the Chaos Computer Club – one of the oldest and largest hacker organizations in the world. Besides that I am fascinated by the methodological possibilities and challenges that emerge along with the quasi-omnipresence of media (together with Anne Kaun I am the editor of Innovative Methods in Media and Communication Research; Palgrave Macmillan, 2016/in print).



IF NOT AT THIS SUMMER SCHOOL, MOST LIKELY, I'D BE FINALIZING A RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATION AND DOING SOME GARDENING.

## **KATHARINA MEYER**

### **BERLIN**

I'm trained as a historian of technology and science, I write occasionally for netzpolitik, Wired and other outlets about all things digital and arty. I am the proud co-founder of a remix and a gif-museum (this still under construction), I curate two tech-conferences (re:publica+TINCON) and do research in the fields of digital humanities, scholarly communications and human rights+technology.

I WRITE A TO-DOS LETTER THAT RECOMMENDS LEISURE ACTIVITIES AND EXHIBITIONS (ALSO SLIGHTLY TECHY) AND SUCH TO MY FRIENDS. I ALMOST NEVER GO MYSELF, BUT OVER THE SUMMER, IF I WASN'T THAT BUSY WITH SUMMER SCHOOLS, I WOULD LISTEN TO MY OWN SUGGESTIONS.

